

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159632
ORIGIN AID-59

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DRAFTED BY AID/ASIA:MDWYRE/NEA/INS:JGRAHAME:RCM
APPROVED BY AID/AASIA:MHBADLER
ASIA/GC:PBLOOM (SUBS)
A/BF/FC:JMANION (SUBS)
AID/LEG:AWESTWOOD (INFO)
NEA/INS:DKUX

-----121435 092104Z /62

R 090119Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159632

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

REF: NEW DELHI 9213

1. GOI HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO AMBASSADOR SINGH'S INITIATIVE ON ST. JOHN'S. HOWEVER, INDIAN EMBASSY (RAJAN) BELIEVES THAT ECONOMIC MINISTER BAIJAL, WHO WAS WITH MANMOHAN SINGH AT PARIS CONSORTIUM MEETING, MAY HAVE SOME NEWS WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND. WE WILL TALK TO BAIJAL EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE STILL CONSIDER IT WORTH WAITING UNTIL WE SEE THE RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR SINGH'S EFFORTS.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER TOLD AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH AS WELL AS RAJAN AND DIXIT, WHOM THE AMBASSADOR ASKED TO FOLLOW UP, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE TONE OF THE GOI LETTER WAS SUCH THAT IT COULD OFFEND THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT. IT ALSO WAS EXPLAINED THAT THE SECTION RELATING TO THE INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNTS WAS REALLY NONE OF THE GOI'S BUSINESS. DIXIT'S COMMENT WAS THAT MANMOHAN SINGH, WHILE A GOOD ECONOMIST, IS A POOR BUREAUCRAT WHO HAS LITTLE PERCEPTION OF THE PROBLEMS HIS LETTER MIGHT INADVERTENTLY CAUSE IN THE

U.S.

3. BASICALLY, WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO WRITTEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE INDIANS ON THIS SUBJECT. A GESTURE WAS MADE BY THE CONGRESS IN RESPONSE TO AN INITIATIVE BY PRIVATE INDIAN CITIZENS. IT IS REALLY UP TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO.

4. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH EMBASSY ENTERING INTO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROPOSAL FOR SOME KIND OF FUND USING US-OWNED RUPEES TO ASSIST POOR PEOPLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO BETTER HEALTH SERVICES AS PROPOSED IN NEW DELHI 8347. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, WE PREFER NO ACTION UNTIL THE GOI CLARIFIES ITS OVERALL ATTITUDE ON A RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AID. WE BELIEVE THAT SIMULTANEOUS CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT USES OF U.S.-OWNED RUPEES IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSIONS ON RESUMPTION OF A DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOI AND USG ON AN OVERALL AID RELATIONSHIP. WE CONCUR WITH THE EMBASSY THAT WE WOULD WANT TO KEEP THIS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM THE IMMEDIATE ST. JOHN'S QUESTION. THE GOI SHOULD UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT ANY NEW GRANTS OF U.S. RUPEES WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE EXECUTIVE BRANCH APPROVAL AND BE APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS. THEREFORE WE COULD ONLY TAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL UNDER CONSI-
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DERATION AT THIS TIME, AS WE HAVE NO GRANT AUTHORITY FOR NON-PL 480 RUPEES.

5. IN SUM, WE HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSED RESPONSE, BUT DO FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL WE SEE IF AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH BRINGS THE GOI AROUND TO RESOLVING THE MATTER IN A MORE DIPLOMATIC FASHION. VANCE

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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